

LESTER SHINGLE MILL
1602 N. 18th Street
Sweet Home
Linn County
Oregon

HAER No. OR-85

HAER
ORE
22-SWEHO,
1-

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Index to Photographs

HAER
ORE
22-SWEN
1-

Lester Shingle Mill
1602 N. 18th Street
Sweet Home
Linn County
Oregon

HAER No. OR-85

Photographer: Jet Lowe, HAER, July 1987

- OR-85-1 GENERAL VIEW OF LOG POND AND BOOM FOR UNLOADING CEDAR LOGS FROM TRUCKS AT LOG DUMP, ADJACENT TO MILL; TRUCKS FORMERLY USED TRIP STAKES, THOUGH FOR SAFER HANDLING OF LOGS WELDED STAKES ARE NOW REQUIRED; AS A RESULT LOADING IS NOW DONE WITH A CRANE
- OR-85-2 VIEW OF BLOCK AND TACKLE FOR MOVING CEDAR LOGS FROM POND TO JACK LADDER--AN ENDLESS CHAIN CONVEYOR THAT MOVES LOGS INTO MILL
- OR-85-3 VIEW OF ENDLESS CHAIN CONVEYOR AS LOGS ENTER MILL
- OR-85-4 DETAIL OF ENDLESS CHAIN CONVEYOR AS LOGS ENTER MILL
- OR-85-5 VIEW OF HEAD RIG ARRANGEMENT WHERE A CIRCULAR SAW CUTS THE LOGS INTO BOLTS
- OR-85-6 VIEW OF SAWYER CUTTING LOG INTO BOLT WITH CIRCULAR SAW
- OR-85-7 VIEW OF WORKER DEBARKING CEDAR BOLT; LARRY L. LESTER (RIGHT); WORKERS WHO EXECUTE THIS DEBARKING ARE CALLED KNEEBOLTERS; WILLIAM C. MARKERT (MIDDLE) IS A SHINGLE WEAVER WHO SAWS SHINGLES FROM THE FACE OF THE CEDAR BOLT AFTER DEBARKING, THEN CLIPS EACH SHINGLE IN THE LAST STEP BEFORE SENDING IT TO THE CHECKER AND BUNDLER
- OR-85-8 GENERAL VIEW OF SHINGLE CUTTING SAWS THAT HANDLE BOLTS AFTER DEBARKING; AFTER DEBARKING THE BOLTS ARE SENT TO THE SHINGLE WEAVER FOR SAWING
- OR-85-9 VIEW OF SHINGLE WEAVER FLOYD D. WILLIAMS CLIPPING SHINGLES
- OR-85-10 VIEW OF SHINGLE WEAVER FLOYD D. WILLIAMS CLIPPING SHINGLES

LESTER SHINGLE MILL
HAER No. OR-85
Index to Photographs
(page 2)

OR-85-11 VIEW OF SHINGLE WEAVER FLOYD W. WILLIAMS CLIPPING SHINGLES

OR-85-12 VIEW OF WORKER, WAYNE N. REYNOLDS, RECHECKING GRADE AND PACKING SHINGLES INTO BUNDLES; LESTER MILL PRODUCES THE GRADES OF SHINGLES

OR-85-13 VIEW OF WORKER SIZING AND SORTING SHINGLES

OR-85-14 VIEW OF WORKER SIZING AND SORTING SHINGLES

OR-85-15 VIEW OF SHINGLES BUNDLED, PLACED ON PALLET, AND READIED FOR FORKLIFT OPERATOR TO MOVE PALLET OF SHINGLES TO LOADING DOCK

OR-85-16 VIEW OF FORKLIFT OPERATOR MOVING PALLETS TO LOADING DOCK FOR SHIPPING

OR-85-17 VIEW OF LOADING DOCK

OR-85-18 VIEW OF BALES OF CEDAR TOW (CEDAR SHAVING WITH SAWDUST TUMBLED OUT) SOLD FOR GARDEN AND ANIMAL BEDDING, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL USES; TUMBLER IS CYLINDRICAL MACHINE TO LEFT

OR-85-19 VIEW OF CHIPPER, ADDED TO MILL AFTER FIRE IN 1970

OR-85-20 VIEW OF MILL; WIGWAM INCINERATOR TO LEFT; USE OF WIGWAM AS AN INCINERATOR WAS DISCONTINUED AFTER 1972

OR-85-21 VIEW OF MILL AND SHINGLE STORAGE AREA

OR-85-22 VIEW OF CHIP STORAGE BIN (LEFT) AND WIGWAM INCINERATOR (RIGHT)

OR-85-23 VIEW OF WIGWAM INCINERATOR; WIGWAM; USUALLY HAS A DUMP TRUCK PARKED INSIDE; WOOD WASTE FALLS FROM CONVEYOR INTO TRUCK WHICH HAULS WASTE TO A LOCAL MILL FOR USE AS FUEL

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LESTER SHINGLE MILL
HAER No. OR-85

HAER
ORE
22-SWEHC
1-

Location: 1602 N. 18th Street
Sweet Home
Linn County
Oregon

Date of Construction: Originally built in 1951-52, the Lester Shingle Mill contains an early shingle-making machine, dating from 1916. Much of the mill was destroyed by fire in 1970, but the Lester family quickly rebuilt it. The shingle weavers at the Lester mill produce shingles using similar technology and using many of the same skills as they did in the early 1900s.

Builder: Melvin L. Lester.

Present Owner: Lester Shingle Company.

Present Use: Shingle manufacture.

Significance: Melvin L. Lester built a shingle mill in Sweet Home, Oregon, in 1951-52 after operating a shingle mill in nearby Foster, Oregon. The family-owned Sweet Home mill ran for nearly twenty years before a fire destroyed it in 1970. The Lester family rebuilt the mill and operates it in much the same manner as small-scale shingle mills were operated in the early twentieth century.

Photographer: Jet Lowe, HAER, 1987.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, Historian, National Park Service

Acknowledgements: Melvin (Mel) Lester graciously permitted Jet Lowe to photograph the shingle mill in 1987. Laura M. Mather, of Lester Sales, Inc., kindly forwarded newspaper articles and notes from interviews with Mel and Stanley L. Lester concerning the history of the Sweet Home mill.